

Working Notes

**TOWN OF ROCKY HILL
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
MEETING OF MAY 13, 2014**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairwoman Marti Stiglich called the May 13, 2014 Economic Development Commission meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. in the Council Chambers of Rocky Hill Town Hall, 761 Old Main Street, Rocky Hill, CT.

Those in attendance: Vice Chairman Mark Walworth and Commissioner Sharon Mounds. Also present were: Ray Carpentino (Economic Development Director) and Christa and Sophie Mariner (Public) (Residents of R.H.).

Those absent: Commissioner Christopher Duff, Commissioner Lori Kern and Commissioner John Roderick.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES & WORKING NOTES

Chairwoman Marti Stiglich asked for the approval of the Minutes and Working Notes of the April 8, 2014 meeting of the Economic Development Commission.

Vice Chairman Mark Walworth made a motion to approve the Minutes and Working Notes of the April 8, 2014 meeting of the Economic Development Commission.

Ray Carpentino told Chairwoman Marti Stiglich that she and Commissioner Sharon Mounds had been present at that meeting but Vice Chairman Mark Walworth wasn't. Chairwoman Marti Stiglich asked if they couldn't vote on these then and Ray Carpentino said they couldn't unless Commissioner Lori Kern showed up at this meeting tonight. Chairwoman Marti Stiglich said they would table this then. Vice Chairman Mark Walworth said he would withdraw his motion.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairwoman Marti Stiglich asked if anyone from the public wished to speak at this time. Christa Mariner, 58 Farms Village Road, R.H., said her first question was going to respectfully be to Ray Carpentino. Christa Mariner told Ray Carpentino that part of his budget for marketing and printing unfortunately got "slashed" last night. Christa Mariner said this is for advertising and the preparing and soliciting of RFPs, etc. She was wondering if this could be a point of discussion if they so liked as to how this might impact this Commission.

Christa Mariner then referred to the Plan of Conservation and Development. She said that the Town Council inexplicably cut \$50,000 last night for the Plan of Conservation and Development and she said that wasn't a wise choice. She did say that the final budget hadn't been approved yet though. She said that she had a discussion with one of the Town Councilors during a recess last night. This Town Councilor had approached her about the comments she had made during "Public Comment". Christa Mariner said there were three Town Councilors, who used to be on the Planning and Zoning Commission, and this includes the Mayor. She said that she asked this particular Town Councilor how he could have cut the \$50,000 because he used to be on the Planning and Zoning Commission and he told her that this had only cost \$50,000 the last time they did it. She then told this Town Councilor that it had cost \$100,000 in 2001 and they will need at least this amount. She said in her personal opinion that \$50,000 will not be nearly enough. She knows that part of the Plan of Conservation and Development belongs to the Economic Development Commission. She asked the Commission if their understanding is that the due date is July 1, 2014 and the Town could lose discretionary funding after that from the State of Connecticut. She then asked the Commission what the focus is of them with regards to the Plan of Conservation and Development. She asked if this would only be Chapter 11 (Business & Economic Development) or she asked them if they are in other chapters as well. She said her final question was with regards to how far the Commission has come in the process. She believes that they have been working on it. She has posed that same question to other Commissions (i.e. Open Space and Conservation Commission). She also wanted to know if they have any influence within their parties to encourage the Town Council to restore the \$50,000 in funding by next Monday. She thanked this Commission.

Chairwoman Marti Stiglich said from her understanding of this that this Commission's portion of the Plan of Conservation and Development is the Economic Development Commission's portion of it. They are not involved in the input for any other areas of that plan. The last time the Plan of Conservation and Development was revised, she had been on the Planning and Zoning Commission. They had worked with Planimetrics and all of the Commissioners at that time were interviewed. She said that she was concerned about July 1, 2014 with regards to the grants. She said that she did find out from the Chairman of the Planning and Zoning Commission and from one of the Town Councilors, who had called the State, that provided they show forward motion with regards to the Town developing a new Plan of Conservation and Development then they will have another two years in which to not be penalized. She asked Ray Carpentino if he had heard anything differently. Ray Carpentino said he thought it was 2014 but he was told today that this is 2015. Chairwoman Marti Stiglich said they still have another year then. Ray Carpentino said yes but he said they have to show progress. Fifty thousand dollars might do a portion of the plan but it won't cover the entire plan. They won't get grant money if they don't have a Plan of Conservation and Development because every State grant is premised on the fact that they have a current one. He explained some more. Chairwoman Marti Stiglich asked if they basically aren't going to be cut off this June and Ray Carpentino said that he didn't think so. Chairwoman Marti Stiglich said she was assured that wasn't going to happen. Ray Carpentino said it takes quite a while to update a Plan of Conservation and Development. Chairwoman Marti Stiglich agreed. They took this prior whole plan in 2001 and put it aside. She said they had started from scratch with ideas.

Chairwoman Marti Stiglich referred to Christa Mariner's first question that she had just asked. Ray Carpentino said the Town Council had cut the marketing line item of the Economic Development Department budget by approximately 27%. He mentioned how he had come in with a zero increase and he had rearranged some of the items. He deleted some of the memberships and he allocated that money into the marketing budget. He is not sure how much of an impact this will have because it is still more than what it had been last year.

Commissioner Sharon Mounds asked Ray Carpentino what his existing budget is. Ray Carpentino said he didn't have the figures with him this evening because he didn't think he was going to be talking about the budget. He said it is around \$101,000 or \$102,000. Commissioner Sharon Mounds asked Ray Carpentino what was impacted last night. Ray Carpentino said the printing and marketing was. He thought this line item was around \$7,800 and he thought that around \$2,700 had been cut.

Vice Chairman Mark Walworth referred back to Christa Mariner's question about the Plan of Conservation and Development. Vice Chairman Mark Walworth said as of July 1, 2014, the OPM for the State requires that they will have something in progress towards the update of the plan from 2001. Ray Carpentino said that he doesn't deal with the plan. The Planning Director of the Town does that so he said that he isn't up on the actual date for this and what will happen at what time. Commissioner Sharon Mounds asked Ray Carpentino if he doesn't contribute to the report. Ray Carpentino said the plan is for this Commission to contribute to the Chapter for Economic Development. Commissioner Sharon Mounds asked Ray Carpentino if he has a due date for that and if he is planning on reporting by July 1, 2014. Ray Carpentino said no. Commissioner Sharon Mounds thought there has to be a progress report this year and that the Plan of Conservation and Development has to be completed by next year. Ray Carpentino said this will be driven by the Planning Director and the Planning and Zoning Commission.

Chairwoman Marti Stiglich asked if the Town Planner hadn't come to most of the Town's Commissions and Departments about one and a half years ago. Ray Carpentino said yes. Chairwoman Marti Stiglich said she had been on the Parks and Recreation Commission at that time but she didn't think she was on the Economic Development Commission. The Town Planner had a survey for them to fill out and she had spent time with them. Chairwoman Marti Stiglich thinks they are in progress with regards to this. She then asked Ray Carpentino if the Town Planner had met with him or with the Economic Development Commission with regards to the updating of this. Ray Carpentino said that he and the Town Planner meet often. He said they don't talk about details but he said that the Town Planner is very busy in current planning issues. The Town Planner's current Staff can't handle updating a Plan of Conservation and Development. Ray Carpentino mentioned that it is very rare that a Town can do this. Chairman Marti Stiglich said sometimes the Plan of Conservation and Development is outdated by the time it goes to press. She then mentioned again how her understanding from a Town Councilor is that this Town is not impacted with regards to its grants being cut off any time soon and she also mentioned again that they just have to show forward motion. They will then get a two year extension. Christa Mariner asked if that can be confirmed with the Town Planner. Chairwoman Marti Stiglich asked Ray Carpentino to mention this to the Town Planner and he said that he will try to get a date for this. Chairwoman Marti Stiglich said she was concerned because they have one grant that they are looking for, for the turf for McVicar Field. She questioned what this

Commission has to do with that per se. Ray Carpentino said that is a STEAP Grant (Small Town Economic Assistance Program). Chairwoman Marti Stiglich said she would have thought that the Board of Education or the Parks and Recreation Department would have been more actively involved in looking for this money. Ray Carpentino said part of his job is doing some of the grants. He mentioned the Main Street Investment Fund and he said that he currently is working on a \$500,000 grant for that. This is for trying to have a portion of the Phase II Streetscape done. There is a requirement in this grant that there be a current Plan of Conservation and Development. He gave more details about this. He said this is an example of some of the issues there are without them having a current Plan of Conservation and Development.

Vice Chairman Mark Walworth asked Christa Mariner if they had answered her questions. Christa Mariner said the funding for McVicar Field was cut last night by the Town Council. She asked what will happen if this Town gets the STEAP Grant but the Town Council says they aren't going to use that money for three years. She asked if that money will be put aside for an "X" amount of time. She told Ray Carpentino that she doesn't want him to have done all of the hard work and then the grant can't be used.

Christa Mariner then referred to the cuts that had been made to the Economic Development Department last night. She mentioned how people like Scott Coleman (Resident of R.H. and owner of PC America) have been coming to these Commission meetings asking for Signage Regulations to be put in place. Christa Mariner said a consultant might have to be hired for this to be done properly. The line item that includes the outside consultant had been cut last night. She said they are taking a step backwards. Chairwoman Marti Stiglich asked Christa Mariner if this was on the signage. Christa Mariner said that line item includes the ability for outside consultants to be contracted. Chairwoman Marti Stiglich said they are looking for grant money for the signage program and it was never their intention to go to an outside consultant. She explained that they can go to hire anyone to do this for them and not necessarily a consultant.

Christa Mariner referred back to the STEAP Grant. Ray Carpentino said the full cost of McVicar Field would be covered if they receive all of the funding that they had requested. They usually like to see these funds expended within a year or two so he said this might be an issue. They usually won't get the money until the work is done. They would hang onto this money for as long as they can but he doesn't think they will let them do that for three years. Chairwoman Marti Stiglich said the current budget will only affect one year. Ray Carpentino said if they get the STEAP Grant that they won't need that money. Chairwoman Marti Stiglich said she understood that.

4. DISCUSSION/ACTION:

a. Mission Statement

Chairwoman Marti Stiglich said that both Commissioner Christopher Duff and Commissioner John Roderick, who have been working very hard on the Mission Statement, weren't present this evening. Chairwoman Marti Stiglich said she felt comfortable in saying though that they have a Mission Statement and she understands from Commissioner Christopher Duff that he had a one word change that he was going to make on this. Chairwoman Marti Stiglich hoped that it got

done. She said they now have a Mission Statement that they can use as part of their portion of the Plan of Conservation and Development. She told the Commissioners that hopefully they can talk a little bit more about this when Commissioner Christopher Duff and Commissioner John Roderick are present at this Commission's next meeting.

Vice Chairman Mark Walworth asked Chairwoman Marti Stiglich if this would require a motion and she said that it wouldn't.

b. Community Signage: Update

Chairwoman Marti Stiglich turned to Commissioner Sharon Mounds to talk about this. Commissioner Sharon Mounds said that she and Ray Capentino had met in his office on April 23, 2014. Commissioner Sharon Mounds said they did some brainstorming. At this point, Ray Carpentino handed out notes to the Commissioners with regards to the brainstorming that was done. (Please see the First Attachment.) Commissioner Sharon Mounds said she and Ray Carpentino had stepped back and they started from the beginning. Commissioner Sharon Mounds said she and Ray Carpentino talked about the word "way finding" and they are thinking that they should change this term a bit. They could maybe talk in terms of identity and directional signage. This will first be approached from a driving standpoint or vehicular transport because they don't have many walkways in Rocky Hill. It was determined that they would first need to look at where they will want to direct people to. The first thing would be things that are obvious (i.e. Town offices, gas stations and hotels, etc.). A list was made of those sites. She told the Commissioners that this was in the third and fourth paragraphs of the paperwork that they had just been given. Commissioner Sharon Mounds said then that Ray Carpentino and she had looked at where these signs would be. Commissioner Sharon Mounds said the Town has existing signage and the State of Connecticut has signs that are in strategic locations.

Commissioner Sharon Mounds said that she and Ray Carpentino are going to meet with the Historical Society and the Parks and Recreation Department. Commissioner Sharon Mounds said that she and Ray Carpentino are also going to do a "windshield survey" where they will ride around Rocky Hill to see what they actually have at various sites, as well as they are going to see what little areas there are to maybe have some signage erected. Commissioner Sharon Mounds thinks that they will schedule this for June 2014. Chairwoman Marti Stiglich confirmed with Commissioner Sharon Mounds that the next steps for this will start in June 2014 and she said yes.

Ray Carpentino asked if he could give a copy of the notes to Christa Mariner and Commissioner Sharon Mounds said yes. Chairwoman Marti Stiglich said this is a work in progress. Commissioner Sharon Mounds started to tell Christa Mariner if she had any suggestions when Chairwoman Marti Stiglich told Christa Mariner to filter her suggestions to this Commission. Commissioner Sharon Mounds said that would be through Ray Carpentino.

Ray Carpentino said he does a "windshield survey" every day when he comes northbound on I-91. He gets off at Exit 23 and he sees the dozen or so State signs that are pointing left. He gave more details about this.

Chairwoman Marti Stiglich thanked Commissioner Sharon Mounds and Ray Carpentino for volunteering to take the lead on this. Chairwoman Marti Stiglich mentioned how physical activity is a big thing. She mentioned how the State of Connecticut has a Trail Day every year in June and they give Towns money. She belongs to an organization that also contributes to that money impact every June. She asked if the trails could be included when they are doing the directional signage because she thinks this might be a great thing to do. She doesn't know if they want to advertise a State Park (i.e. Quarry Park) but she said the Town actually administers it. She said the trail system in Rocky Hill is an excellent one and there is a "move afoot over time" for all of this to be connected. She told them that they might want to look at where the parks are. She then mentioned that the focus of June's Trail Day is to get families out. One of these events will be held in the morning and one will be held in the afternoon.

Commissioner Sharon Mounds said a trail runs right behind her condo and she asked Chairwoman Marti Stiglich if she knows the name of that. Chairwoman Marti Stiglich said she didn't and she mentioned that she is past the time in her life when she can use trails. She explained some more.

Chairwoman Marti Stiglich told Commissioner Sharon Mounds and Ray Carpentino that this Commission is looking forward to hearing about the "windshield survey". At this point, Vice Chairman Mark Walworth said he didn't think that Ray Carpentino was finished talking. Ray Carpentino gave more details about his drive into Rocky Hill every morning. He said that people don't know where they are and Commissioner Sharon Mounds said people don't know what Town they are in. Ray Carpentino agreed. Commissioner Sharon Mounds said this had happened to her when she had worked for the State and she gave more details about it. Vice Chairman Mark Walworth said Rte. 99 is probably the only route marked with regards to people entering and leaving Rocky Hill. He said there must be something on Rte. 3 too with regards to people entering Rocky Hill. Ray Carpentino said there isn't anything. The Rocky Hill Chamber of Commerce has something on Old Main Street, something on the Silas Deane Highway and then at Exit 23 there is a sign with regards to the Rocky Hill Chamber of Commerce welcoming people to Rocky Hill. He explained some more. Chairwoman Marti Stiglich said part of this could be that they ask the Rocky Hill Chamber of Commerce to participate in part of this because they might have some funding and they might have some ideas. She said that it would be advantageous for them to be a part of pointing to various areas. She mentioned that they are moving forward and they don't want the lack of funds right now to stop them from moving forward.

c. Visitation Program

Chairwoman Marti Stiglich said that she, Commissioner Christopher Duff and Ray Carpentino went to see the Manager (and part owner), Lou Romeo, of West Side Market this past week. This ended up being close to two hours long there. They got a "cook's tour" of all of the back areas of this store. Lou Romeo was asked if he had any issues with Rocky Hill and he has none but if there is any issue that he has, it is with the State. This has to do with the Sunday liquor law because he had found out that this would cost him \$1,500 per year for the licensing fee. Ray Carpentino said this had been \$85 before. Chairwoman Marti Stiglich said that was the only issue that Lou Romeo had. She said Lou Romeo had just put new lights in, in the parking area.

Chairwoman Marti Stiglich said she had reminded Lou Romeo that when she was on the Planning and Zoning Commission, she had approved the little brook/pool that is on the side of the store when people are going in the front doors. West Side Market has been in Rocky Hill for approximately thirty-four years. This is between their old location and this location now. They do well. Ray Carpentino said it is interesting and surprising that they have customers that come from the Old Saybrook area and from Windsor. Chairwoman Marti Stiglich said customers also come from Glastonbury, etc. She explained some more and said that Lou Romeo attracts a wide variety of people. Chairwoman Marti Stiglich thinks that part of the reason for this is because they give good service at West Side Market. She said it was gratifying to hear that Lou Romeo doesn't have any issues. West Side Market is looking to upgrade its infrastructure and Chairwoman Marti Stiglich told Ray Carpentino that she thinks he had told Lou Romeo about C-Pace because he had mentioned that. Ray Carpentino said he did. Chairwoman Marti Stiglich said the next big thing there will be the sign that faces Rte. 3 and a consultant will be hired to do that for them. She asked Lou Romeo if there were any issues with the Signage Regulations as he knew them and he said no. Chairwoman Marti Stiglich said West Side Market is very happy in Rocky Hill.

Chairwoman Marti Stiglich told the Commission that they keep going out on sessions and they aren't picking up on any unhappy business owners. Ray Carpentino said he is sure they will find a few. Chairwoman Marti Stiglich agreed and she said they will be made the hero by solving their (businesses) problems.

Chairwoman Marti Stiglich told Ray Carpentino that she also understood that he had gone out on a visitation with Commissioner Lori Kern. Ray Carpentino said that Commissioner John Roderick had gone too. Ray Carpentino said they went to Affordable Fabrics, which is on the Silas Deane Highway. This business has been in Rocky Hill at the same location for twenty-six years and it is a family owned one. They also have a store in Uncasville. Affordable Fabrics was in ten locations throughout Connecticut at one time. The general public is their customers. They also do work for schools and theatre groups. They don't do any shipping but they have customers from all over the east coast. They do mailings. Their business increased during the recession. He said they have nine part time employees and they would like to add more storage to their building so they are in the process now of trying to figure out how to do that. They have absolutely no issues with Rocky Hill and they have no plans to relocate. They said this Town is excellent to do business with. He is sure they were talking about the Building Department and the permitting. He said if they could do anything for Affordable Fabrics that it might be some assistance and some research on their signage. Affordable Fabrics has a signage issue because they share a property with their neighbor. That plaza is large and they are kind of tight on space. Commissioner Sharon Mounds asked where they are located. Ray Carpentino said they are located at 2119 Silas Deane Highway. The Town did a façade project for them because they were interested in having that done so a rendering was done but then they decided not to go through with it a few years ago.

Commissioner Sharon Mounds said maybe they can start asking the business owners if they and/or their employees live in Rocky Hill when the site visits are done to get a feel of how much a part of this community they are. Ray Carpentino said the owner of Affordable Fabrics lives in

Uncasville. Chairwoman Marti Stiglich told Commissioner Sharon Mounds that they can do this.

Chairwoman Marti Stiglich said they have a visitation scheduled for this week. She, Vice Chairman Mark Walworth and Ray Carpentino will be going to this. Commissioner Sharon Mounds asked Chairwoman Marti Stiglich where they will be going and she said Peter Pan. Vice Chairman Mark Walworth said this is the Peter Pan Bus Line on Rte. 3. Chairwoman Marti Stiglich said they are asking Ray Carpentino to bring them to different types of businesses so that they get a good feel of different locations. Ray Carpentino said three businesses didn't want to be met with. He mentioned that they could get all of the information for one business over the phone and it is very difficult to schedule a meeting with the Plant Manager or the CEO/CFO of the other two businesses. Chairwoman Marti Stiglich said that will happen, especially for small businesses because they are busy running their businesses.

5. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ray Carpentino said the revised site plan for Town Center West is pending the approval by the Planning and Zoning Commission. There was a public hearing last week for this and their next meeting with that Commission will be held next Wednesday. The developer of Town Center West will be meeting with the Redevelopment Agency tonight at 7:00 p.m. in the Elevator Conference Room. Ray Carpentino said he has to be at that meeting and he told this Commission that they were welcome to attend it. Chairwoman Marti Stiglich said that she and Commissioner Sharon Mounds had been at the public hearing for this so that they could hear firsthand what it is that they want to do. Commissioner Sharon Mounds said she was there as a private citizen. Chairwoman Marti Stiglich said that she was too.

Ray Carpentino told this Commission that they might have seen the sign that went up for Maltz Auctions on the Ames' property. Maltz Auctions has advertised on their webpage and he mentioned where else they have advertised for this. The public auction will be held on June 19, 2014 at the Sheraton. Commissioner Sharon Mounds asked if they could attend this. Ray Carpentino said probably but people can't bid on it unless they have a certified check. Chairwoman Marti Stiglich said people can't go on that site unless they have been preapproved, etc. Commissioner Sharon Mounds said she was wondering if only bidders are welcome to this. Ray Carpentino said he didn't find that information on Maltz Auctions' webpage but he said that he will call Mr. Maltz. Chairwoman Marti Stiglich asked what time this is going to take place and Ray Carpentino said he thinks that it will be at 1:00 p.m. Chairwoman Marti Stiglich said she has a 2:00 p.m. meeting that day so she might not make it. Ray Carpentino said that he will be there. He said the property of Mr. Maltz that is in New Haven, CT and one that is in Chicopee, MA are also going to be auctioned off. Ray Carpentino gave more details about those.

Ray Carpentino referred to his economic development activities. He is trying to arrange a meeting with State Representative Tony Guerrero and with State Senator Paul Doyle, as well as the State Attorney for the Libera property, which is the property that is for sale that is right across from Brook Street at the traffic signal. Ray Carpentino said that two or three developers have been lost due to Department of Transportation (DOT) requirements that would require an expenditure in excess of \$100,000 and it would take approximately nine to twelve months to get

approved through the DOT. This would be for even a small 8,000 square foot project. The Town wants to see if there is anything that State Senator Paul Doyle, State Representative Tony Guerrero and the State Attorney for this property can do to break that loose and have the DOT come up with some improvements that are reasonable. Commissioner Sharon Mounds asked where this property is. Ray Carpentino explained where it is.

Ray Carpentino told this Commission that he thought he had mentioned to them that he is working with a local manufacturer, which needs to double their manufacturing building. This manufacturer wants to buy a property and he was trying to match them up with a possible seller. The manufacturer hired a realtor in the meantime. Ray Carpentino said that he knows the realtor will find properties that are outside of Rocky Hill but the manufacturer wants to stay in this Town so they are trying to accommodate them.

Ray Carpentino said he was talking today to another realtor, who has a client who needs to buy a 25,000 square foot manufacturing building. This client wants to locate in Rocky Hill but this Town unfortunately has no buildings that are for sale for manufacturing. Commissioner Sharon Mounds asked if they have any land or property that is zoned for a 25,000 square foot manufacturing building. Ray Carpentino said they have property that is zoned properly but it isn't for sale, except for the Town property that is down at the gravel pit. He mentioned that this same realtor also has a client that needs to lease 50,000 square feet and he said the Town has space for that so he connected them this morning with a property owner.

Ray Carpentino said he is still working on a restaurant type use that is looking to relocate into Rocky Hill and he has been doing this for over one month now. He explained some more about this.

Ray Carpentino told this Commission that they may have noticed the steel structure for Arburg that is on West Street. This is rapidly moving along now.

Ray Carpentino said he had a meeting with a recreational use entity. They are looking to rent some space in a building down by the Connecticut River but this didn't work out.

Ray Carpentino asked the Commission if they wanted him to go through every single one of the economic development activities. Commissioner Sharon Mounds said she had a question about a business that she had thought was coming on Main Street. She referred to the new development that is next to CVS. She asked if this business is still going to be there because it looks like they stopped working. Ray Carpentino said they have been working for a long time on this. Commissioner Sharon Mounds asked if this is going to be a restaurant. Ray Carpentino said it is going to be a risotto and wine bar restaurant. He explained that the owner doesn't really have a construction manager who is on site all of the time so this is taking longer than it would normally if this was to be done by a professional. Christa Mariner asked if this is the same restaurant that will be before the Planning and Zoning Commission next week and she explained some more. Ray Carpentino said it has to be.

Ray Carpentino said he met with two commercial realtors who are interested in Phase II of the Business Park. This is the property that the Town owns, which is sixty plus acres. He is trying

to brainstorm what the Town would be looking for and what they have to match for a development.

At this point, Ray Carpentino told this Commission that a public hearing was going to be taking place here in Council Chambers in ten minutes. Chairwoman Marti Stiglich asked Ray Carpentino if he could leave her about five minutes because she wanted to make an announcement.

Ray Carpentino said he had attended a free workshop in Windham about Brownfield developments. He also had attended Rocky Hill Chamber of Commerce's Annual Meeting that was held at the Sheraton.

Vice Chairman Mark Walworth referred to Ray Carpentino's monthly report and he said that he wasn't familiar with what CEDAS is. Ray Carpentino said this stands for the Connecticut Economic Development Association.

Ray Carpentino said he had submitted the STEAP (Small Town Economic Assistance Program) Grant for McVicar Field. He is currently working on the Main Street Enhancement Fund for a portion of Phase II of the Silas Deane Streetscape. He said that he might be working on a C-Pace Marketing Grant. He was also investigating the possibility of submitting a grant under the Long Island Sound Program for the development of low impact Design Regulations but that has to come through the Planning and Zoning Commission because this isn't really an economic development thing. He explained some more about this.

Commissioner Sharon Mounds said she didn't know if they were considered a port for the Ferry but the legislature just approved a Port Authority. She told them to keep this in the back of their minds. Ray Carpentino said he thought they designated specific ports in that legislation. Commissioner Sharon Mounds said they did so far but they left this open for further ones. Chairwoman Marti Stiglich said that is interesting.

Ray Carpentino said he was done with his report.

6. CORRESPONDENCE/DISCUSSION

Chairwoman Marti Stiglich asked Ray Carpentino if they had any correspondence. Ray Carpentino said no.

Chairwoman Marti Stiglich said she was going to take the opportunity to talk about two things with everyone's permission. She said that this Commission had attended the Annual Joint Meeting with the Economic Development Subcommittee of the Town Council. Commissioner Sharon Mounds asked if this is called an Annual Meeting. Chairwoman Marti Stiglich said she had looked this up and it is called an Annual Joint Meeting. Commissioner Sharon Mounds asked Chairwoman Marti Stiglich if she had looked this up in the Charter and she said that she had looked the meetings up online. She said at the recent Annual Joint Meeting that they went back and forth with comments and they brought the Economic Development Subcommittee up-to-date on the seven items that this Commission is moving forward with.

Chairwoman Marti Stiglich then said that she wanted to clarify perception. She mentioned that more than one person on this Commission was told by the public that they are public servants. She said that a public servant is really a Town paid employee. Members of this Commission are volunteers who are unpaid. This Commission meets each month and she said if residents wish to share any comments or information with them that they are free to do so by attending these meetings and by using the "Public Comment" section of their agenda. Residents can speak to them as a group. She said that this method will allow all of the residents an equal opportunity to reach them as a group and to present their comments to individual members of this Commission who are meeting as a group. The benefit of this is that all of the members of this Commission will hear the same thing and they will have the opportunity to ask questions. She explained some more about this. She said that she thought the comment the members of this Commission heard is that somebody can contact them individually, twenty-four hours per day and seven days per week. Commissioner Sharon Mounds said this was about how the members of this Commission should be on call. Chairwoman Marti Stiglich said more than one Commission member had heard this. She just wanted to clarify this for everyone. She said everyone knows when this Commission meets and they are very easy to find. They don't cut off people who are talking unless they are going to talk for a half hour and there is someone else who wishes to speak because she said they aren't that kind of people. She said this gives the twenty-thousand residents in Rocky Hill an opportunity to come in and talk to this Commission anytime that they wish to so that they can talk to the members of this Commission as a group. She said the members of this Commission can then ask intelligent questions or give intelligent answers. She then asked the Commission if she had covered all of this. Commissioner Sharon Mounds said to give this due consideration and she said if anyone from the public wants to contact the members of this Commission that they can do so through the Office of Economic Development addressed through Ray Carpentino.

7. ADJOURN

Commissioner Sharon Mounds made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:55 p.m. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Mark Walworth and adopted unanimously. (Commissioner Christopher Duff, Commissioner Lori Kern and Commissioner John Roderick were absent.)

Respectfully submitted,

Jo-Anne Booth
Recording Secretary